

SWOSU Wins Grant to Strengthen Innovation and Economic Growth Initiatives

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford is one of 19 colleges and universities in 10 states named winners of the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) 2013 University Center Economic Development Program Competition.

SWOSU's Center for Economic and Business Development won a \$102,590 grant to provide technical assistance to communities in order to promote a favorable business environment that will help attract private capital investment and create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

Doug Misak, director of the center, said the grant will support the Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition, a group of colleges, universities and career tech centers in southwest Oklahoma. The coalition promotes economic development in the region by helping businesses with various issues they are facing.

The grant also supports the CEBD, which works directly with businesses, connecting them with training and other programs.

The EDA grant was among a total of \$2.5 million awarded for five-year programs that will leverage university assets to promote innovation and strengthen southwest Oklahoma's economy. This year's competition was open to higher education institutions in states supported by EDA's Austin and Denver regional offices.

SWOSU's CEBD provides business solutions and technical assistance to public- and private-sector organizations and conducts other activities with the goal of enhancing regional economic development. They offer a full range of services. CEBD solutions include basic and applied research, market research, feasibility studies, product development, strategic and financial planning, seminars and training, and management consultations. These services enhance business productivity, streamline operations, increase quality and cut costs.

SWOSU and Rogers State University were the only two universities in the state of Oklahoma to win grants in the competition.

For more information about the CEBD, call 580.774.7096 or visit the center's website at: <http://www.swosu.edu/cebd>.